



100 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX, 78570
956.514.4201



South Texas ISD
Virtual Academy
GRADES 6-12

Credits per Semester	.5 credits per semester
Instructor	<p>Instructor: Ms. Boffill</p> <p>Email: carmen.boffill@stisd.net Phone: (956) 514 - 4201</p> <p><i>I am available by phone during the hours posted below. Outside of those hours (or if I happen to be on another line when you call), please feel free to leave a detailed voicemail. I will respond via phone or email.</i></p> <p>Conference times available for communication:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday - Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 - 8:45 a.m.</p>
Course Description	<p>This course equips students with the essential language arts skills needed throughout their academic careers. Students read and analyze a variety of texts. Instruction and reading strategies accompany reading selections to help engage students and sharpen their comprehension. Students express their ideas and knowledge using standard (formal) English in written and oral assignments. The course includes discussion activities that engage students in the curriculum while creating a sense of community.</p>
Virtual Learning Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participate in all class discussions and activities in a positive and respectful manner. ● Use time and technology appropriately. (Adhere to South Texas ISD Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks) ● Be productive. ● Be prepared and punctual. ● Cameras must be on/live during the entirety of class and students are expected to be within the camera frame.



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Learning/Performance Objectives	The primary objective of this ELA course is to further develop each student’s ability to read, analyze and respond to a variety of literary genres; to listen and speak effectively for a variety of purposes, audiences, and modalities; and to apply the conventions of standard English to all written and spoken communications.
Adopted Instructional Materials	Zoom Platform STISD Issued Technology
Instructional Methods	Lectures, multimedia elements, class discussions, case studies, projects and individual assignments, cooperative learning
Virtual Students’ Attendance Policy	<p>The following components of the virtual academy’s attendance policy were established in efforts to provide the best learning outcomes from students learning remotely this school year.</p> <p>In order to receive credit, students must have 90% attendance in synchronous class sessions. In addition, to be present, students must: have their device’s camera on at all times, participate actively in discussions/activities, and be in the camera’s frame throughout the entire class period.</p> <p>If a student fails to meet one or more of the expectations mentioned above, they will be removed from the synchronous class session and must rejoin to earn attendance credit.</p>
Grading Policy	<p>The academic year is divided into four quarters, or 9 -week periods. The weight for each nine-week period will be 37.5 percent and the semester exam will weigh 25 percent. There will be a minimum of 5 grades per student during each three weeks progress report grading period. This course will be comprised of 3 grading categories: Major Assessments 50%, Minor Assessments 30%, and Daily Work 20%.</p> <p>There will be a minimum of 9 assessments per nine-week grading period to constitute students’ course grade for that grading period. These assessments will minimally be comprised of 3 major assessments (valued at 50%) and 6 minor assessments (valued at 30%). There may be more than 5 grades posted during a three-week period.</p> <p>Grades are finalized and posted through Skyward. Students/parents must monitor grades/missing assignments through Skyward along with Canvas.</p>
Cell Phone and Technology Policy	Students are provided with a Chromebook, Internet HotSpot, Ipad with Keyboard, and a digital pen.



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	Technology is to be used for educational use only. Personal cell phones are not to be used during class time.
Assessment Policy	Frequently during the year, formative assessments will be given. These will be in the form of homework, written or oral quiz, readings and discussion, student writing, or tests. The formative assessments are critical to learning because they provide feedback as to what essential learning we will focus on next. They will help influence and shape the process of learning while we still have time to improve before tests or grades are given.
Retesting Procedures	Students may retake tests only upon receiving a failing grade of below a 70%. Additional assigned material during tutorial may be a prerequisite to taking a retest. The time and date for all retests is determined by the teacher. The highest grade students can earn when retesting is a 70. Quarter and Semester Exams will not be eligible for retest.
Late Work Policy	All work is due at the designated assigned time. Late work due to absences: Students absent on a day work is due shall receive a due date for the next class meeting. Assignments submitted electronically are due before the beginning of class time on the scheduled due date. Students who are absent on the day work is assigned will be assigned said work upon their return to class and given the same time frame for completion as originally assigned. Work turned in during this time shall receive full credit. Late work not due to absences: For all assignments turned in late, 10 points shall be deducted for each day an assignment is late with the maximum penalty not exceeding 50 points. Lastly, students MUST write Ms. Boffill an email through their official STISD Outlook email as they complete late assignments. If I do not receive an email, I will not know to regrade before report card grades are finalized.

*Course syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Your child is responsible for keeping the syllabus in a safe place for reference. You are also welcomed to retain a copy for your records.